THE SCIENCE OF ALICIA VIKANDER

THE "EX MACHINA" STAR PLAYS A ROBOT. PAGES 18-19

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PENN TO PAVEMENT

Penn Relays. UPenn standout Thomas Awad broke the 4-minute mile barrier at last year's event. This time, the junior wants to help lift his fellow teammates. PAGE 26

UPenn junior Thomas Awad was the main attraction last year, but he is content to focus more on team relay races at this weekend's Penn Relays. / GREG CARROCCIO, PENN ATHLETICS

Techies shine at Tech Week kickoff

PAGE 02

EU calls for talks after migrant drownings

PAGE 14

How a bad boss can help you move ahead

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1 NEWS

Top 3

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1 'Danica Patrick nude pic surfaces (NSFW)'

2 'Winners of "The Voice": Where are they now?'

3 'Jets say they haven't given up on Geno Smith, he'll compete to start'

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Left, a family plays Henka Swiss Caper at Philly Tech Week's kickoff event "Arcade @ Dilworth" on Saturday. Top right, people play Hive76's giant Connect Four game. Lower right, a gamer plays Tux Junior. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

Talent defies age at Philly Tech Week

Digital. The kickoff event at Dilworth Park showcases impressive techies young and old.

Saturday at Dilworth Park was a mega-fest of walking robots, competitive cybernerds, and outdoor liveliness that only Philadelphia can produce.

The launch event, Arcade @ Dilworth, was a festive array of game programmers and innovators that came from various backgrounds of experience and years in the business. But despite the difference in age, their exceptional talent was undeniable.

"We are out here to get more youth interested in technology," says Jason Marziani of Flyclops.

Along with his team, Flyclops has garnered fame for its highly popular game app Domino! which has seen roughly 3 million downloads worldwide. Marziani was at the event to beta test and receive public feedback for their latest game Why Are We Running? They remarkably created the mobile app program for it within a month at their headquarters in Old City.

"We host a lot of game jams where we brainstorm and produce programs that can generate profit," Marziani said. "I've been in the Philly tech scene for 15 years now and there has been so much progress visibly but so much more that can be done internally."

It was such exposure that helped grant 17-year old robotics programmer Stanley Umeweni a full-ride scholarship to study mechanical engineering at the University of Pittsburgh.

A Central High School student, Umeweni was one of 112 students who participated in the youth-driven robotics team, chicly named the Robolancers, that produced their demonstration on Saturday.

This is his fourth Philly Tech Week invitation. He has been attending since he was 13.

"Without Robolancers and participating in Philly Tech Week, I wouldn't have had a real direction in life," he proclaims. "The city government does a great job supporting innovation and youth programs…Comcast and Penn helped give us grant money to be here."

Umeweni's experience at Philly Tech Week has evolved through time. Once being the "observing little kid watching the older techies build," to now being proud to "create a full operational robot that can shoot a ball through a rectangular goal on its own."

Now heading to Pitt in the fall, Umeweni is determined to make his last high school invitation this week "matter more than ever."

ERNEST OWENS
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

Techies unite

The 5th Philly Tech Week is currently in session.

- It's a week-long series of events (April 17-April 25) that celebrates the city's growing technology and civic innovation sectors.
- There will be over 100 independently produced conferences, parties, and seminars that will highlight entrepreneurship and education within the region's emerging tech world.
- Visit PhillyTechWeek.com for a full calendar of events going on through the week.

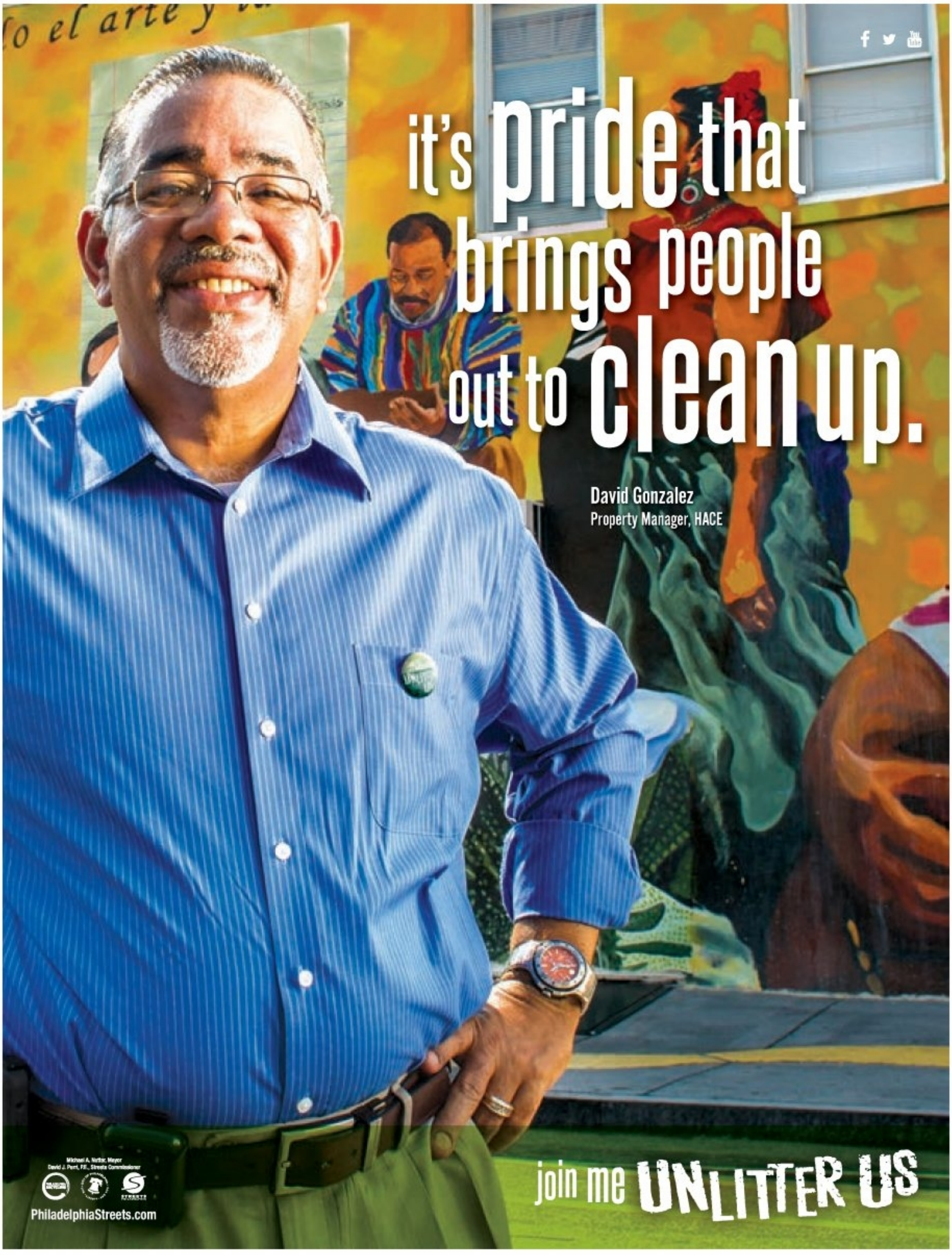
Future tech

Getting ready for the next generation

As the city begins to encourage more independent and younger tech start-ups, Marziani believes there should also be a discussion about the "taxes to start such business that are problematic," and "the parts of the city where Internet connection is not present."

"We have to get the youth connected," he added.

"Education is a major issue currently being debated on in this city, and the tech world here is just as focused on it as well in wanting more communities to have adequate Internet access that allows children to be exposed to our field."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Where to not let your kids go today

Pro-marijuana events planned for annual 'pot holiday'

Today is April 20, the stoner holiday of marijuana enthusiasts when weedheads encourage each other to not just light up, but to smoke as much herb as humanly possible, preferably in public.

In Philadelphia, where marijuana below 30 grams was officially decriminalized in October and public use is now only punishable by a ticket, pot smokers will gather to celebrate their holiday around the city.

The East Coast Cannabis Coalition is holding a celebration at Penn Treaty Park beginning at 3 p.m.

Other pot activists, some of whom support marijuana legalization primarily for medical usage, will be demonstrating at Independence Mall at 4:20 p.m.

Last year at Independence Mall on 4/20, no one actually smoked marijuana due to a heavy police presence. METRO

Richard Dyott smokes at a marijuana rally on Independence Mall on 4/20 in 2014. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER

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Feds must return rare double eagle gold coins

Treasure. A Philly man's rare coins must be returned to his descendants, a federal judge ruled.

The U.S. government must return 10 exceptionally rare gold coins worth millions of dollars each to a family from which the purloined coins were seized a decade ago, a federal appeals court ruled Friday.

The 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia said Joan Langbord and her sons Roy and David are the rightful owners of the double eagle $20 gold pieces, after the government ignored their claim to the coins and missed a deadline to seek their forfeiture.

The government had long suspected without proving that the late Israel Switt, a Philadelphia-based gold dealer and father of Joan Langbord, had smuggled some of the coins with the help of a Mint employee.

It seized the Langbords' double eagles after the family located the coins in Switt's safe deposit box and sought to have the Mint authenticate them.

But when they filed a "seized asset claim" in September 2005, the government neither returned the coins nor sought their forfeiture within 90 days, as required under the federal Civil Asset Forfeiture Reform Act. REUTERS

Tale of the coins

The Philadelphia Mint in 1933 produced 445,500 double eagles. But they were not circulated because President Franklin Roosevelt, trying to halt a bank panic, removed gold coins from circulation and made ownership of large amounts illegal.

- Most of the coins were melted down, but a few were smuggled out, including one that fetched $7.6 million at a 2002 auction.

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PHILLY'S RIVER RENAISSANCE

Street talk

DAVE WARNER

METRO COLUMNIST/ VETERAN NEWSMAN

Dave Warner tackles Philadelphia metropolitan issues. Email Dave at EditExpress@verizon.net.

You would have sworn it was a weekend day. But it wasn't.

The path along the east bank of the Schuylkill River on a workday last week was nonetheless crowded with walkers, bikers, dog owners and in one case, a young lady who was rushing the season, catching some sun in a bikini.

That path is called the Schuylkill Banks, and it now comes complete with an $18 million concrete extension that hovers above the river leading to the South Street Bridge.

Concrete or not, it is called the boardwalk, and it pushes the pathway downriver for just over a third of a mile.

It opened for the first time last October, meaning this spring begins its first real season.

Officials involved in both the Schuylkill Banks project, and the Spruce Street Harbor Park development along the Delaware River agree that the city is going through a river renaissance at the moment, prompted by the de-industrialization of the river banks.

"I think it's wonderful that the city is rediscovering its rivers," said Danielle Gray, marketing director for the Schuylkill River Development Corp.

Tom Corcoran, president of the Delaware River Waterfront Corp, agrees.

"I think both waterfronts, they are very different in terms of what you can do along them, but they are both coming alive," he said.

Still, the Schuylkill trail is unmistakably an urban setting, and the surroundings never let you forget that.

The Schuylkill Expressway, on the other side of the river, hums relentlessly with the sound of traffic, and if that's not enough, oil tanker cars are lined up alongside the path.

Maybe that is something you stop hearing and seeing over time. Just maybe.

Runners and pedestrians enjoying the weather on the Schuylkill River Boardwalk on Sunday. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER

Meryl Levitz, head of the Visit Philadelphia tourism agency, told Metro the two river attractions give visitors a focus for their outdoor recreation.

Fairmount Park, with its 9,200 acres, is a passive attraction, but, she said, visitors sometimes ask, "What am I to do there?" The river parks are an answer to that question.

It's about time that Philadelphia has finally decided to make an attraction out of the rivers instead of just watching the water flow by.

On the banks of the commercially busy Delaware, you get a different feel for things than along the Schuylkill: marinas with fancy and expensive boats either tied up or floating gently in the river in front of you, and big ocean-going ships plowing through the water.

Hammocks are the order of the day at the park, and more are being added than they had last year, when visitors sometimes had to wait their turn. The park itself, which is centered at the foot of Spruce Street, is opening on May 22, a month earlier than last year — its first year.

Moreover, the park, visited by an estimated 500,000 visitors last year, is opening a roller skating rink on the same site as the ice rink further up river.

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Forensic unit

FBI: Hair-match experts gave flawed testimony

The FBI and Justice Department have acknowledged that almost all of the experts in a forensic unit dedicated to microscopic hair comparison gave flawed testimony against defendants before 2000, The Washington Post said.

The National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and the Innocence Project found that 26 of the 28 examiners in the FBI's microscopic hair comparison unit overstated evidence in more than 95 percent of 268 trials that the groups have examined so far, the Post said.

Defendants and prosecutors in 46 states, along with the District of Columbia, are being advised of the findings, which could result in appealing of convictions, the newspaper said. The cases with overstated evidence included 32 that resulted in death sentences, and 14 of those defendants have been executed or died in prison.

The Post first raised the question of flawed testimony in 1980s and 1990s trials in a story in July.

Peter Neufeld, co-founder of the Innocence Project, said the FBI's hair analysis in that period was "a complete disaster" but praised the bureau and the Justice Department for collaborating in the review. REUTERS

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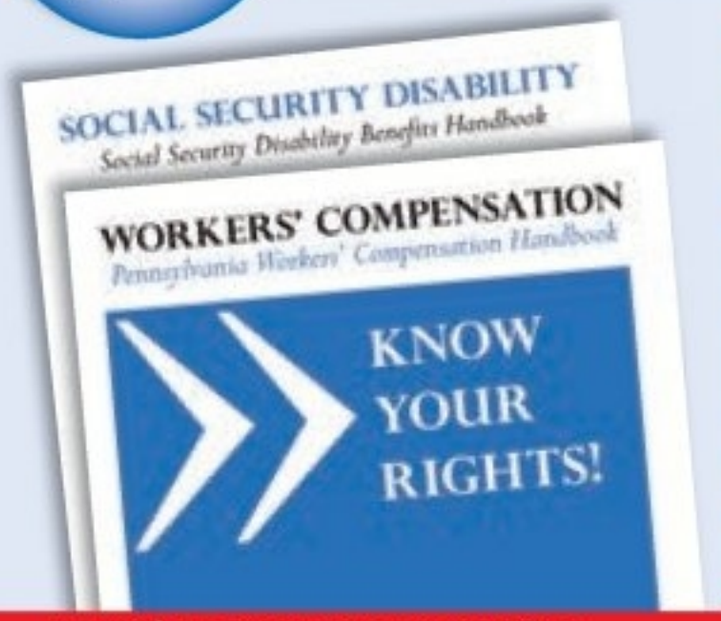

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Loretta Lynch testifies during her Senate Judiciary Committee confirmation hearing to become U.S. attorney general on Capitol Hill. / GETTY IMAGES

AG nominee vote likely this week: Sen. Corker

Delay. Lynch's confirmation has been pending since she was nominated last November.

A vote on the stalled Senate confirmation of the nominee to be the next U.S. attorney general, Loretta Lynch, could take place in the next two to three days, a senior Republican senator said on Sunday.

"My sense is, over the next 48 to 72 hours, that is going to be resolved, and we will move on to this Iran issue," Sen. Bob Corker, head of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said on CNN's "State of the Union" program.

He added that there now were an education bill and trade promotion agreements, in addition to Iran legislation, due for a vote on the Senate floor and that as a result, "this logjam … will be worked out."

For the past month, Republicans who control the Senate have delayed a confirmation vote until Senate Democrats end a filibuster, or blocking tactic, against an unrelated bill designed to protect victims of human trafficking.

Senate Democrats balked at a provision inserted in the bill by Republicans that would bar any compensation paid by convicted sex traffickers into a victim fund from being used for abortions, except in limited cases.

Republican Sen. Mike Lee, who sits on the Senate Judiciary Committee and voted against Lynch when the committee endorsed her nomination in February, was less specific than Corker about the timing of a vote on her nomination. REUTERS

Quoted

"I think there will be a vote soon, within the next few weeks."

Republican Sen. Mike Lee, speaking Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press."

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Oklahoma City victims remembered 20 years after bomb

Bombing. It was carried out by Timothy McVeigh, who was convicted on federal charges and executed.

This file photo shows the north side of the Albert P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, April 19, 1995. / GETTY IMAGES

Hundreds of people gathered on Sunday at the site of the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing to remember the 168 men, women and children killed when a truck stuffed with tons of explosives blew up at a downtown federal building.

Bill Clinton was among the dignitaries who addressed the crowd outside the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum.

"Oklahoma City, you had to choose to redeem your terrible losses by having to begin again," said Clinton, who was in his first term in office at the time of the attack, one of the deadliest of its kind ever staged on U.S. soil.

The museum, built over the spot where the destroyed Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building once stood, includes a permanent display of 168 empty chairs, one for each person who died.

On Sunday morning, the seats were adorned with flowers, teddy bears and other mementos. The name of each victim was read aloud by relatives, coworkers and survivors.

"It was 60 minutes of terror," said Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett. "But our finest hour has lasted 20 years. This city has progressed in a manner that none of us could have foreseen." REUTERS

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5 things you need to know

1 Florida man who landed at US Capitol thought he'd be intercepted

A Florida man who piloted a small gyrocopter past major Washington, D.C., landmarks last week said on Sunday he had fully expected to be intercepted before he landed on the west lawn of the U.S. Capitol, creating a national security scare.

Douglas Mark Hughes, 61, a U.S. Postal Service mail carrier, described his flight upon arriving home in Ruskin, Florida, early on Sunday.

"I had expected to be intercepted on the way," he told reporters gathered outside his home.

He recalled it being colder than he had expected flying from Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, to Washington, where the sight of the Washington Monument helped guide him to the Capitol grounds.

"People were not frightened at all," he said, noting that some of the people below waved as he flew past. "I waved back. That part of it was surreal."

REUTERS

2 Millionaire businessman wins Finland election

A millionaire former telecoms executive touted as a technocrat capable of rescuing Finland from economic slump won Sunday's parliamentary election, vote predictions showed, but he may need support of a Euro-skeptical populist party to form a coalition.

Forecasts by state broadcaster YLE based on 60 percent of votes showed opposition Centre Party leader Juha Sipila, who has backing of the urban middle class and rural conservatives, beating pro-Europe and pro-NATO Prime Minister Alexander Stubb.

YLE forecast Sipila won 46 seats in the 200-member parliament, with Stubb's center-right National Coalition with 37 seats and center left Social Democrats with 37 seats. The euro skeptic and anti-immigration Finns Party was fourth with 35 seats.

REUTERS

JUHA SIPILA GETTY IMAGES

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Toddler shot in drive-by in Kent, Washington, dies in hospital

A 1-year-old girl who was shot in the head during a drive-by shooting near Seattle on Thursday died late Saturday from her wounds, hospital officials said.

Police in Kent, Washington, 20 miles south of Seattle, have not announced any arrests following the Thursday afternoon shooting near an apartment complex.

The child was strapped in a car seat in the back of her parents' car when a black car pulled alongside, and both the car's driver and passenger opened fire on the family's vehicle before driving away, police said in a statement.

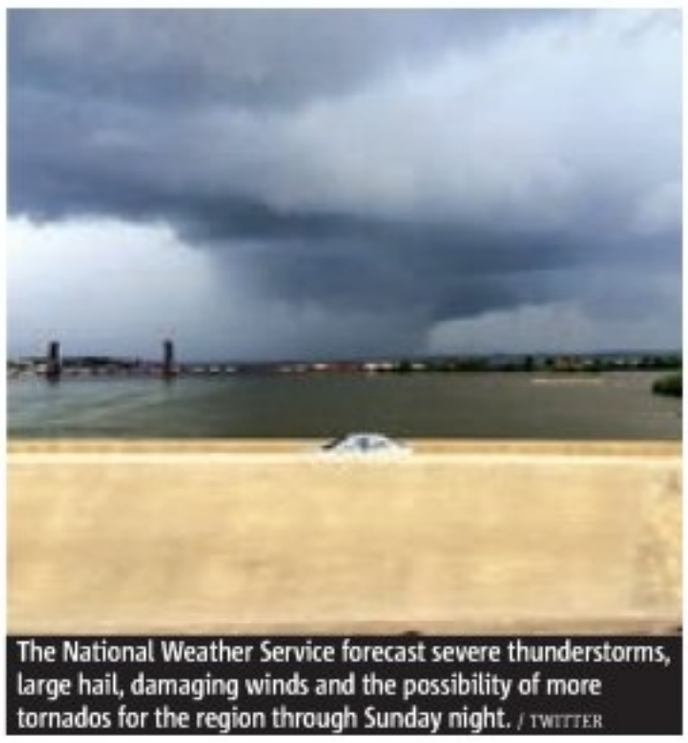
She was taken to the hospital in grave condition. REUTERS

Tornado, damaging storms strike Southeast

Storms that damaged homes and toppled trees rolled through the U.S. Southeast on Sunday including a tornado in Alabama, and further severe weather is possible, the National Weather Service said.

The tornado was spotted at 9:30 a.m. in Henry County, in southeastern Alabama, where several rail cars were overturned, the National Weather Service said.

REUTERS



The National Weather Service forecast severe thunderstorms, large hail, damaging winds and the possibility of more tornados for the region through Sunday night. / TWITTER

Heavy smoke spreading from fire near Los Angeles

Evacuation orders were lifted on Sunday for residents near a fast-moving brushfire east of Los Angeles that had threatened more than 200 homes overnight, even though heavy smoke was still menacing the area, fire department officials said.

The blaze, named the "Highway Fire," had grown to about 980 acres and was 25 percent contained, according to an afternoon update posted on the Riverside County Fire Department website.

Residents sensitive to smoke were cautioned to stay inside as windy conditions blew the haze around the Prado Dam region, about an hour's drive east of Los Angeles in drought-stricken California.

The smoke was affecting communities from Anaheim to Chino Hills and western San Bernardino County, said Captain Liz Brown of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Prevention (CalFire).

REUTERS

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EU calls for emergency talks after 700 migrants drown off Libya coast

Boat. It is believed to have capsized when the migrants shifted to one side of the overcrowded vessel.

As many as 700 people were feared dead after a fishing boat packed with migrants capsized off the Libyan coast overnight in what officials said may be the Mediterranean's worst disaster as thousands flee poverty and war to Europe.

Top officials in Europe, whose recently downsized border protection program has been criticized by international aid groups, said urgent action was needed. EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini said foreign ministers would discuss the issue at a meeting in Luxembourg on Monday.

If confirmed, the death toll would bring to 1,500 the total number of dead since the beginning of the year resulting from the flow of migrants seeking to flee insecurity in sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East.

Only last week, around 400 migrants were reported to have died attempting to reach Italy from Libya when their boat capsized.

On Sunday, 28 people were rescued and 24 bodies recovered from the 20 meter-long vessel, which sank around 70 miles from the Libyan coast, south of the southern Italian island of Lampedusa, the Italian coast guard said.

The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) said later that around 50 people had been rescued of the 700 reported to be on board.

French President Francois Hollande said the EU had to do more, telling Canal+ television that rescue and disaster prevention efforts needed "more boats, more over flights and a much more intense battle against people trafficking."

"More EU countries must take responsibility for the refugee situation," said Sweden's Minister for Justice and Migration Morgan Johansson. REUTERS

Turkish coast guards rescue the migrants after a migrant boat sinks off southwestern Turkey. / GETTY IMAGES

Quoted

"A tragedy is unfolding in the Mediterranean, and if the EU and the world continue to close their eyes, it will be judged in the harshest terms as it was judged in the past when it closed its eyes to genocides when the comfortable did nothing."

Maltese Prime Minister Joseph Muscat

Capsized boat south of Lampedusa Island

This year

1,500

If the death toll is confirmed, it will bring to 1,500 the total number of people who died this year seeking to reach Europe.

Quoted

"They are literally trying to find people alive among the dead floating in the water."

Muscat

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Springtime colors run bright in Paris

Revelers celebrate their arrival by throwing colorful chalk powder after taking part in the second Parisian edition of the "Color Run" in Paris, France, on Sunday. The initiative takes place in cities around the world. / GETTY IMAGES

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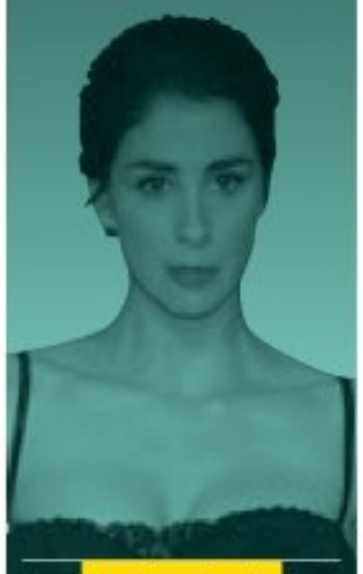

Twitter feed

Today, Ken Jennings has a great idea, Sarah Silverman is accepting new cultural norms and Olivia Wilde is self-impressed.

@KenJennings: BLACK MIRROR episode idea: Burgess Meredith sits down happily with a Kindle full of books...only to find his battery is at 1%

@SarahKSilverman: It's fun to let yourself absorb new cultures like I went to England for 2 wks & I'm already brushing my teeth way less

@oliviawilde: I just made a breakfast sandwich and then stood back in awe like I had discovered the cure for blindness. #smallvictories #lowstandards

Miley Cyrus loves rock 'n' roll, as well as Joan Jett

Miley Cyrus sang some rock 'n' roll. Ignore the pasties.
ALL IMAGES GETTY IMAGES

Miley Cyrus wore nipple pasties at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame ceremony Saturday. Are you shocked? Of course you are! You'll also likely break a monocle reading her intro for inductees Joan Jett and the Blackhearts. "I'm going to start off this induction with the first time I wanted to have sex with Joan Jett," Cyrus told a packed house while wearing another, pastie-less dress. But more shocking is that the anecdote was less salacious than sincere. "We were in her bathroom, and we were smoking and just talking, and this was one of the moments in my life where I wanted to be as present and absorb everything that she said to me," Cyrus says. "Joan's music, her activism, who she is — in all of our lives, all of us are going to experience people who try to tell us who to be and what to be. F— those people!"

David O. Russell may have been a jerk to Amy Adams

Last week WikiLeaks did their thing and released over 40,000 more private emails from the Sony hack that happened in December, but so far it doesn't appear this new batch will lose any exec their job. One juicy bit is that it appears once-troubled, now-golden director David O. Russell may still be kind of a jerk on-set. The filmmaker who enraged George Clooney on "Three Kings" and was caught screaming at Lily Tomlin on "I Heart Huckabees" allegedly cleaned up his act and was rewarded with three monster hits in a row. But leaked emails reveal that while making "American Hustle," he was abusive to cast and crew alike, including Amy Adams. "He grabbed one guy by the collar, cursed out people repeatedly in front of others and so abused Amy that Christian Bale got in his face and told him to stop acting like an a—hole," reveals one email. When the guy who famously blew up on the "Terminator: Salvation" set thinks you've gone too far, look out.

Ariana Grande's dad acts like a creepy dad

It's one thing for Big Sean to make a naughty double entendre about his thing with Ariana Grande. It's another for her dad to get involved and act, well, like a dad. Big Sean had posted a picture to Instagram of him with a Detroit Tigers cap, writing: "I gave her that D... #Detroit." Hello, nurse! Then her dad, Edward Butera, got involved, writing in the comments section, "that D. better be Detroit Sean." Not since the old "Saturday Night Live" sketch with Steven Seagal as a pop scaring his daughter's date has a guy's interaction with a girl's father been this awkward and unfunny.

THE WORD

Matt Prigge takes on the world of gossip.

MATT PRIGGE
@mattprigge
matt.prigge@metro.us

Sofia Vergara holding ex's frozen embryos 'indefinitely'

Vergara will have the last laugh.

Perhaps your relations with an old flame are frayed, but at least they're not as weird as the one between Sofia Vergara and ex Nick Loeb. Loeb has been saying the "Modern Family" star destroyed some frozen embryos they might have used. But Vergara is saying otherwise. "The claims made against Sofia Vergara by Nick Loeb are uncredible and hold no merit," her attorney, Fred Silberberg, told People. "Vergara, who has happily moved on with her life, is content to leave the embryos frozen indefinitely as she has no desire to have children with her ex, which should be understandable given the circumstances." So she's keeping them just to prove she doesn't care? That's kind of badass.

Daily video

Celebs name first films that made them cry

Late last week someone recut Matthew McConaughey's crying jag from "Interstellar" so it looked like he was weeping at the new "Star Wars VII" trailer. Now there's a real video of famous film people reminiscing on the films that really made them cry. Daniel Radcliffe reveals he shed some for "Life is Beautiful," Chiwetel Ejiofor lost it at "Schindler's List" and both Lee Daniels and Oprah Winfrey got misty over "Love Story." Meanwhile Lupita Nyong'o went not with a film but with one of the Charlie Brown specials, in which Linus loses his blanket.

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‘IT FOLLOWS’ LEADS AN INDIE HORROR TREND

Essie Davis gave one of last year’s best performances in “The Babadook.” / IFC FILMS

Horror

‘The Babadook’

Netflix Instant

We are suddenly amidst an indie horror renaissance, where skilled and tiny scarefests, most notably “It Follows,” actually cross over into the mainstream. Jennifer Kent’s Australian ghost movie never cracked the national top ten box office winners this past winter, but it’s equally intense. In fact, it’s debatably more nerve-racking before a mega-creepy specter starts skulking about the creaky home of a widow (Essie Davis) and her young son (Noah Wiseman). That’s because the boy has become abruptly unhinged, prone to loud, uncontrollable freak-out sessions, much to the dismay of his grieving and already on-edge mom. Viewers’ nerves get frayed, and then comes a scary ghost.

Thriller

‘Bound’

Netflix Instant

The Wachowskis are in the doghouse, having made three bombs in a row (recently “Jupiter Ascending”). But they can do whatever they please because of their debut: a neo-noir that got attention because its heroes (Jennifer Tilly and Gina Gershon) were lesbians, but it earned praise because it was an immaculately sculpted nail-biter.

Documentary

‘Winnebago Man’

Netflix Instant

What’s fascinating about this doc, in which an enterprising filmmaker tracks down a guy who became Internet-famous for an old video where he flips out while shooting a commercial, isn’t the guy himself. It’s watching director Ben Steinbauer realize he’s in over his head. Not only does his subject prove irascible, but he’s suddenly stuck with an ethical dilemma on how to handle someone who never wanted fame.

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Alicia Vikander

Interview. With "Ex Machina," a new "It" girl gets to do a brainy sci-fi film.

In "Ex Machina," Alicia Vikander plays a robot with a human face.
A24

Alicia Vikander doesn't have time to see movies. The Swedish actress is currently in "It" girl mode, parlaying acclaimed performances in "Pure" and "A Royal Affair" — as well as the new "Ex Machina," in which she plays a robot with revolutionary A.I. capabilities — into a stream of big films. In addition to Guy Ritchie's "The Man from U.N.C.L.E." there's "Adam Jones" with Bradley Cooper and Emma Thompson and "The Danish Girl" opposite Eddie Redmayne, and more. While in New York promoting "Ex Machina," Vikander said she actually saw a movie for fun: "It Follows." And, luckily, she loved it.

What was it about "It Follows" that really struck you?
Normally you're supposed to be scared by things jumping out in front of you. But with those big panoramic wide shots, for once the filmmaker doesn't tell you where to focus. It's so open; you have to look everywhere. You felt like you were on the same journey [as the characters].

It's an unusual way to do a horror film. And "Ex Machina" is an unusual way to do a sci-fi film. It's very stripped-down. Its special effects are organic to the narrative. At times, with its small number of characters, it seems like a play.
It's a chamber piece. To be able to have such long scenes is rare. Often you start a scene, you start to get into it, and then it's over. You find a certain path you hadn't taken in another take. In this film, you really had the chance to execute whatever new influences or directions you found. Every single take turned out to be different. You try to open a new door, and when you open that door, you're going in another direction.

The question in the film is whether Ava, your robotic character, genuinely thinks and feels independently of her programming. How did you approach that as an actor?

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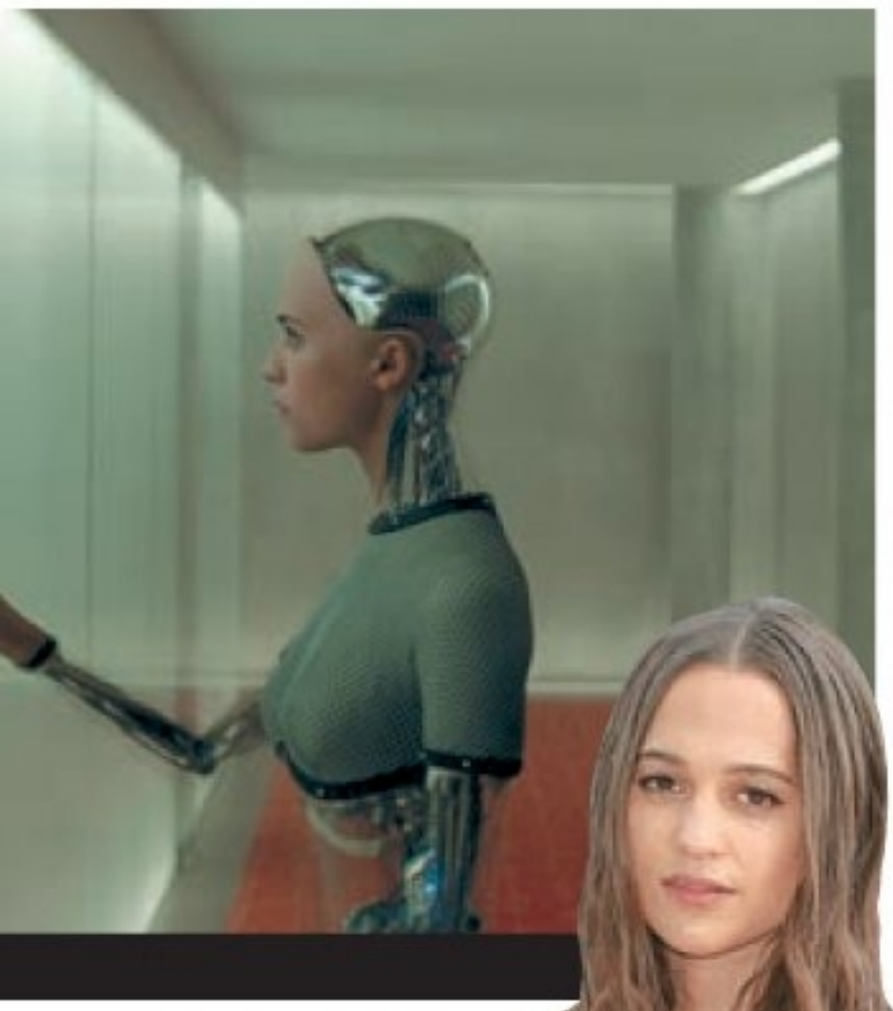

Let's dance

How did you think about physically portraying Ava?

I was probably unconsciously using my dance background. I had years of training, so that is a part of me. I grew up moving and knowing how physicality reads. That's what you learn in ballet school. We created our own pieces and choreographed them from the age of 12, so you know from an outside perspective what things read like. It was also a nice tool to have, once I found what Ava moved like. When I would get into that posture, that would be a great way to get into the character, too. It's like using an accent. If you just learn that accent, you become something quite different.

With any part, even when you're trying to create a new character, you can at least relate to the fact that they're human. With this, you couldn't even do that. I figured that, because they were questioning whether she was real or not, her maker must have come very far [in programming her]. I wanted her to come very close to that idea, and I was wondering what makes people believe she is a real girl. Alex [Garland, the writer-director] was very open about it. I basically had a blank sheet. He let me try different ways of moving and different voices. It was one of those roles you really want because you're quite terrified and scared of taking it on, but you do get to try whatever you want.

ALICIA VIKANDER
GETTY IMAGES

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DAENERYS HAS A REUNION

"Thrones" on the Web

WINTER IS COMING

As the editor-in-chief for Winter Is Coming, Dan Selcke spends his time writing about the latest "Game of Thrones" news and preparing for the long night that will have no end.

Read more of him at **Winteriscoming.net.**

The second episode of this season of "Game of Thrones," "The House of Black and White," continued the premiere's focus on tying up loose ends and setting up the conflicts to come. "Game of Thrones" is definitely building toward something, and knowing this show, it's probably something bloody.

Episode MVPs

After sitting the premiere out, Arya Stark arrived in Braavos and gained admittance to the House of Black and White, where she'll learn from an old friend how to be the best little assassin she can be. However, the stars of her section were the gorgeous exterior shots of Braavos, a crisscrossing network of dirty canals under a cloud-covered sky.

The show continued to flaunt its expanded production budget when Brienne of Tarth, who finally tracked down Sansa Stark only to have the young woman refuse her offer of help, participated in a thrillingly choreographed chase on horseback. Before, "Game of Thrones" had to space these displays of opulence out, but a beautifully photographed visit from one of Daenerys' wayward dragons toward the end of the hour proved that the show is now the visual equal of any Hollywood blockbuster.

Finally, at the Wall, Jon Snow was elected Lord Commander of the Night's Watch thanks to some campaigning by Sam. His new position forces him into a close working relationship with Stannis Baratheon, whose arrival has invigorated what used to be one of the more inconsistent storylines.

The Mother of Dragons makes time for some family bonding. / HBO

Questions for next week

This episode gave us our first glimpse of Dorne, the arid homeland of fan favorite Oberyn Martell. We'll be seeing a lot more of it soon, as Jaime Lannister intends to smuggle himself into the country to retrieve his daughter Myrcella, who was shipped there back in Season 2. Producers have hinted that this season will break away from George R.R. Martin's novels, and Jaime's arc certainly looks nothing like his activities in the books. The new direction makes some fans nervous, but it's also exciting since no one can honestly say they know what's coming.

Battles ahead

Crazy rumor corner

According to an article in the New Zealand Herald, Brienne (Gwendoline Christie) may soon fight Gregor "The Mountain" Clegane, best remembered for crushing Oberyn Martell's skull with his bare hands last year. The Herald spoke with Christie about the coming season, but this information didn't come by way of a direct quote from her, so take it with a grain of salt.

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Recipe. A salad as crisp and cool as early spring

It's still a bit gloomy out there, but spring is definitely settling into its groove. Maybe you even went outside without a scarf this week! Do your feet even remember what grass feels like? Maybe we're not quite at the barefoot phase of the season yet, but the weather is definitely beckoning us outdoors. To celebrate, we got this delicious recipe from organic juice bar and restaurant Feel Food. It's hearty, full of vitamins and minerals and makes for a perfect midday boost.

EVA KIS

Kale and Apple Salad

Dressing: In a small pot, cook the garlic cloves in the cup of oil on low heat for 10 minutes. Make sure the oil is hot but does not bubble. Remove garlic cloves from the oil and drain. Blend the garlic with the tamari, cashews, vinegar, juice of half the lemon, ginger and water into a smooth paste.

Salad: Stem and wash the kale, dry and cut. Mix/toss with dressing. Cut apple into thin slices and mix with juice of half a lemon. Top salad with apple slices and your favorite granola. Serves four.

Ingredients

- 4 large handfuls of kale, preferably organic
- 1 green apple
- ½ oz. tamari
- 6 oz. raw cashews
- 3 oz. apple cider vinegar
- 1 large fresh lemon
- 2 oz. alkaline water
- 4 grams fresh ginger
- 2 garlic cloves
- 1 cup grapeseed oil

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jobs & education

HOW TO GET AHEAD

Are online courses right for you?

We weigh the pros and cons.

JULIA WEST
@MetroBOS
letters@metro.us

Taking classes in your kitchen has its advantages — and drawbacks. ISTOCK

It's no surprise that online college courses are quickly gaining popularity. Between hectic schedules, multiple jobs and family responsibilities, classes that offer some flexibility are in high demand. But are they the right route for your collegiate goals?

It's important to first consider what it takes to succeed at online learning. Having self-discipline, staying motivated and being extremely organized are key, according to Clara Piloto, director of global programs at MIT Professional Education. A decent grasp of technology is also a bonus.

Ralph Rogers, the executive vice president of academic affairs at Nova Southeastern University, agrees. "Maintaining a regular schedule to work on your studies is crucial and takes discipline," he says.

We asked Rogers what students thinking about online education should consider before singing up.

How do you learn best?

Acknowledging that you're not quite cut out for online classes is important. "Learning is basically a social activity," says Piloto. "Many learners get energized by being in class — interacting physically with other learners by touching, holding and doing." If this learning style works best for you, online courses may not be the smartest move.

Look at your other commitments

Personal situations can strain a student's ability to commit to coursework. For those with responsibilities outside of school, online courses are often a great alternative to the traditional classroom. "Full-time workers or students with child care responsibilities are typical of those who benefit from studying at times convenient to them," explains Rogers. "[Online courses are] especially helpful if you travel a lot for work, have a family, disability or are in the armed forces," adds Piloto.

You won't be alone

Piloto adds that educators are aware of this social itch and are working to add more of a social aspect to online learning as a way to engage students. "Technology, pedagogy and better understanding of learning styles are leading to a more personalized approach to education," says Rogers. With the right balance of technology, social interactions and discipline, online learning may be just the ticket for the right student.

It's not just you — everyone wonders if they are qualified for the job. ISTOCK

Four thoughts every new grad has had while job hunting

We've all been there: sifting through what seems like an endless sea of job postings, trying to find our dream job. It can be frustrating, to say the least — and if this sounds like your life right now, know that you're not alone. We've got some helpful advice about the questions all new grads are probably asking themselves right now.

"Am I really good enough to apply to this job?"
Realistically speaking, you're probably not perfect for the job. But chances are, the other candidates who apply are likely in the same boat. Keep in mind that you also have qualities that may be useful to the role that the recruiter may not have even considered — it's up to you to show them you can do it.

"These recruiters are probably rolling in candidates 100 times more qualified than me."
New grads tend to think that recruiters always have a ton of qualified candidates vying for their roles at any given time. While it may feel like the odds aren't in your favor, you never know unless you apply.

"I should pump out 10 more cover letters today."
While it's important to write a customized cover letter for each application you send out, don't feel like you need to craft each one from scratch. Consider creating a template and filling in the employer's name in each empty field. Ensure there is at least one paragraph left open where you can express your knowledge about that company — as long as it shows you've done your research, your cover letter is doing its job.

"Seriously, where am I supposed to get five years of experience for an entry-level job?"
It's easy to feel like all these minimum experience requirements are simply a recruiter's attempt to kick you while you're down, but they're not — there's a reason certain jobs need experienced candidates. When you're just starting out, it's important to keep your eyes open. You might not start off in your target industry, so try getting an entry-level position that will help you develop related skills that can eventually help you get the job you want.

Talentegg.com is a job board and online career resource for college students and recent graduates.
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You can make any school into your dream school

Didn't get accepted by your top choice? Here's what you should do.

JOANNE REINARD
@ MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

Don't freak out if you don't get into your first choice. ISTOCK

We all know that not getting into your dream college can be crushing, but educational consultant Kristin M. White has a message to high school seniors everywhere: It's possible to turn any school you go to into a fantastic experience.

We asked White, the author of the new book "It's the Student, Not the College," for her tips for high school seniors currently figuring out where to enroll this fall.

What should you do if you didn't get into your dream school?

"It doesn't matter what college you go to; it's really what you make of it," White stresses. She notes in her book that students who get the same grades (regardless of where they went to school) usually end up getting the same job opportunities. "A lot of students have this idea of a dream college and think it will affect their future or get them a better experience than another college, but studies have shown that it really doesn't matter."

What should students consider when making their final decision?

"Students should find a financial fit to make sure that they do not take on too much debt," says White. Potential students should also look at the course catalog and try to imagine what classes they'd be interested in. It's important, she says, to focus on choosing the right classes for your interests.

How can students get over the fact that they didn't get into their first choice?

White recommends that students focus on all of the good things about the school they end up choosing. "Go on another campus visit or log on to the school's Facebook group," she advises. "Look at the things they have for new students."

Once you are actually on campus, she recommends fully throwing yourself into student life. "Go visit your professors [during office hours] and get out of your comfort zone by meeting unexpected people, like those from different countries."

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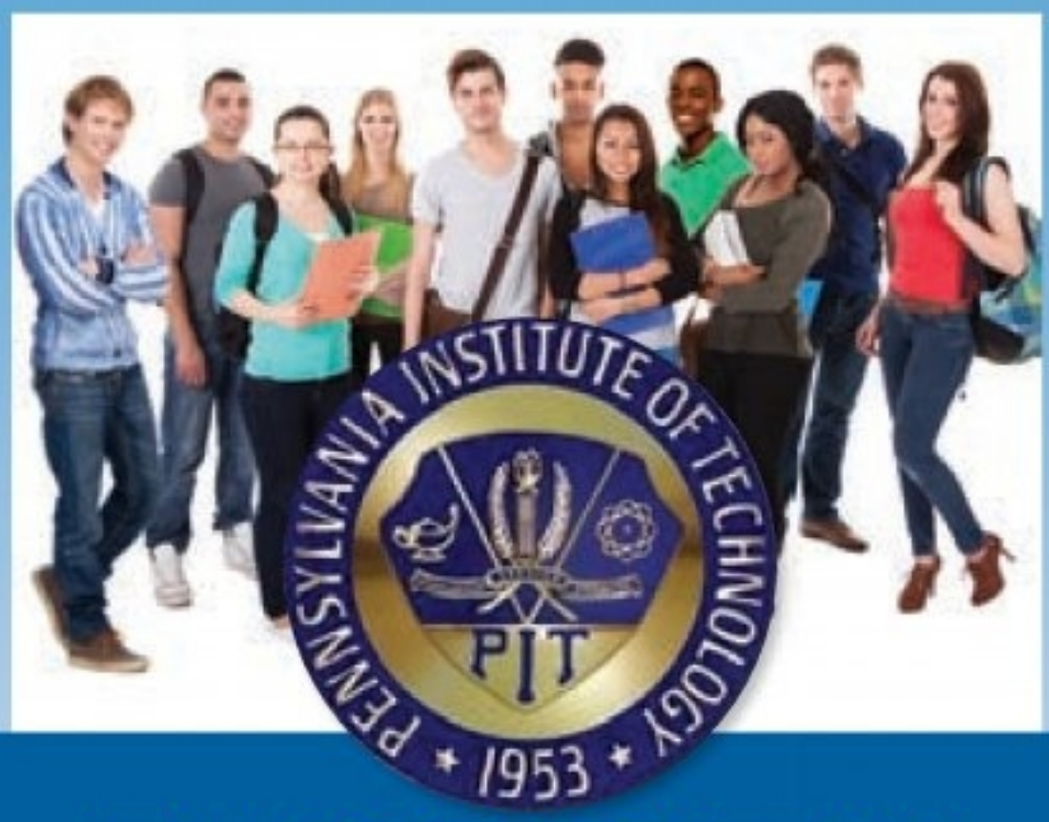

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How a bad boss can teach you valuable career lessons

MEGHAN POOLE
Ⓐ MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

Even inept supervisors can influence your path.

Self-discipline and working independently are two of the skills you can learn from a bad boss. ISTOCK

Almost everyone will have to work for a bad boss at some point in his or her life. But author Merritt Watts has a provocative theory about the impact of bad bosses on younger workers — that they will benefit in the long run.

Watts' latest book, "First Jobs: True Tales of Bad Bosses, Quirky Coworkers, Big Breaks, and Small Paychecks," compiles 50 stories (good and bad) about various first jobs. We asked Watts why it's important to stick it out at a first job.

Valuable lessons

"Having a bad boss at your first job is not going to derail your entire career," Watts points out. "It's teaching you how to deal with people. When you have a bad boss, you're forced to make it work, so I would arguably say that this is one of the most important skills."

It will help you grow

"As teenagers, your brain goes through this huge neurological development, and you're forming new connections, so you're learning frontal lobe skills, such as calming yourself down when you're mad or how to have a confrontational conversation without blowing up," Watts explains. "So if you're not putting yourself in situations where you're forced to deal with [stress], then you're not going to acquire that skill, and that's going to haunt you."

It's a trial by fire

"Almost everyone has been there, and you have to realize that this is your first relationship with someone who is not your parent and not your teacher, and they just want the job done," she says. "Think of it as a rite of passage and a way to bond with your co-workers."

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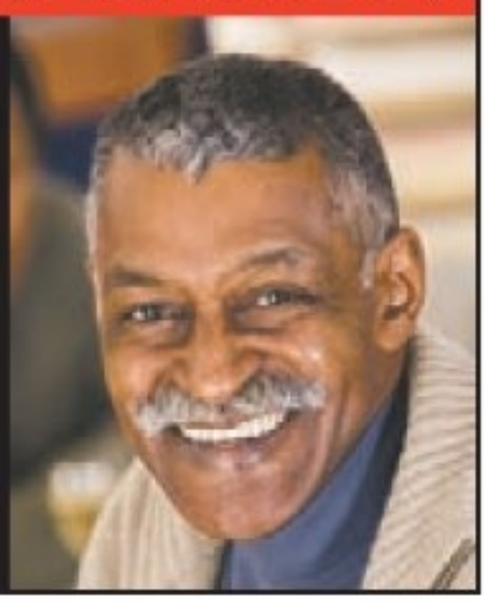

Horoscope

♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21
There is so much going on that you may have trouble keeping up. You will come out ahead if you keep your priorities straight.

♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20
Delays will ensue if you need to deal with governmental agencies. Keep your important documents in order if you want to save yourself time.

♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22
Groups that you feel strongly about will benefit from your input. Don't be surprised if you are asked to assume a leadership role.

♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22
You will waste time if you get caught up in a verbal battle. Be an observer, not a participant. Keep out of the line of fire.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22
Share your ideas. You will gain ground over your competitors if you are assertive. Take advantage of every opportunity.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22
You have a heart of gold, but you mustn't donate to every cause or organization that approaches you. The best investment you can make is in yourself.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21 You will be oversensitive regarding personal matters. Don't let this get you down. Patience will help you ride out the storm.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21 There is money to be made. Going the extra mile at work will be worth the effort. You will be recognized for your discipline.

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan. 20 If there is something you have been wondering about or deliberating, take the plunge. You will probably wish you had done so sooner.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb. 18 Personal problems will upset you. Be careful not to judge others or take sides. Remain neutral until all the facts are in.

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20
Reconnect. A call or email will help to strengthen the bonds between you. A minor windfall or debt repayment is forthcoming.

♈ Aries | March 21-April 20
Change is in the air. With your intuition and dedication, you will be in an ideal position to take advantage of an opportunity that lies ahead. **EUGENIA LAST**

Sudoku: Easy and hard

		3			6	5		
		4		3				7
	7	1					3	4
			7	6	4			5
4				5				2
7			2	1	8			
2	3					9	5	
1				8		4		
		5	1			6		

	4		8			9		
		2	6	5				4
6	1		4					5
		8	9				3	
			7	2	8			
	5				3	8		
5					1		9	6
9				8	4	1		
		1			6		4	

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Letters to the editor

Minimum wage, supersize dreams

Yes, $7.25 is too low for most people and the fact that they can't work a 40-hour week is bad also, but $15! It will never happen. I can only assume they started ridiculously high to have some bargaining room. McDonald's has said they are raising the minimum to $10. That is a good compromise and one that most likely will not change. There are people in professional jobs who have training who are making $15 and they should be due to their training, but the fast-food workers are really living in a dream world if they think $15 is ever going to happen. **MICHAEL WHITE**

Pot is no crime

April 20 as National Pot Day makes sense. Consumption of marijuana for both medical and recreational use is part of mainstream America, transcending generations. Creative entrepreneurs will always provide the citizens' desire, regardless of government approval. Consumers have voted with their dollars, making marijuana consumption a multibillion-dollar enterprise today. Legalize it and add a sales tax. Revenues will more than cover the costs of any abuse.
LARRY PENNER, VIA EMAIL

letters@metro.us

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact info.

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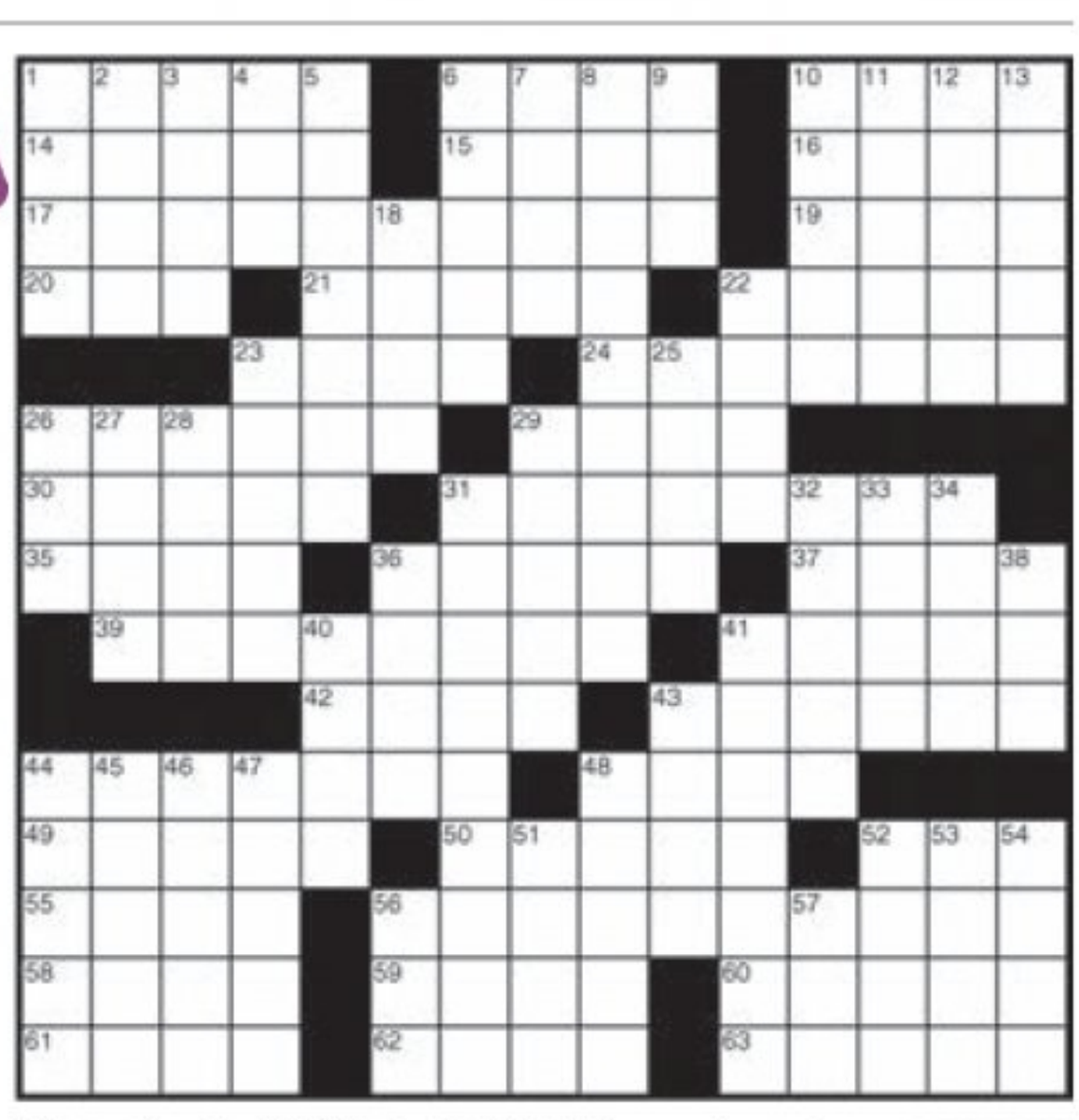
Use your smartphone to find today's crossword answers! Download and open the Blippar app on your smartphone and hold the screen over the puzzle.

Crossword

Across
1 Fishtailed
6 Long-distance line
10 Aspen transport (hyph.)
14 Take the podium
15 Experts
16 Diva — Ponselle
17 Type of sausage
19 Appliance
20 Thing on a ring
21 Thesaurus man
22 Pond growth
23 Ho Chi —
24 Gorges formed by a river
26 Purpose
29 Germinated grain
30 Flattened bottle
31 Very unpopular
35 Berets
36 Dossiers
37 Cable car
39 Farmers' attics
41 Pale yellow
42 Louts
43 Threw the rider
44 Kidney stones
48 Hogshead
49 Back biters?
50 Fill the seams
52 Impress and then some
55 Alan or Cheryl
56 Big buzzers
58 Love, to Picasso
59 — mater
60 Weight deductions
61 Answering machine sound
62 Nefertiti's god
63 Cure salmon

Down
1 Egg part
2 Indy champ — Luyendyk
3 Like permed hair
4 Dog days in Dijon
5 Oil rig feature
6 Novelist Evelyn —
7 Ranch measure
8 Legal precedents (2 wds.)
9 Mach 1 exceeder
10 Honestly!
11 Beatnik's drum
12 Like pagodas
13 Hourly fees
18 Is obstinate
22 Con
23 Topsy-turvy
25 Yodeler's perch
26 Repeatedly
27 Humdrum
28 "She's a Bad Mama —"
29 Turns to slush
31 No piece of cake
32 Pile up
33 Viking name
34 Mental fog
36 Colt or filly
38 Glove sz.
40 Costello and Rawls
41 Old firearms
43 Pet toy
44 B, in music (hyph.)
45 Texas tourist site
46 Enticed (2 wds.)
47 Tight-knit team
48 Cigar type
51 Hunter's need
52 Dynamic prefix
53 Year fraction
54 To be, to Brutus
56 Moo companion
57 Thud



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3 SPORTS

Nationals 4, Phillies 1

Strasburg silences Phillies

The Phillies looked considerably uncomfortable with the bat Sunday, spreading seven hits in a 4-1 setback to the Nationals. The team drops the series 3-1 and will rest its struggling offense before hosting the Marlins Tuesday. In Sunday's defeat, Odubel Herrera, Cody Asche and Freddy Galvis remained bright spots for the struggling squad, each picking up a hit to keep their respective averages above the .300 mark.

Penn Relays: Awad to focus on team, not 4-minute mile

Track and field.
Penn's Thomas Awad won't run the Ben Franklin Mile this year after clocking in at 3:58 last year.

Roger Bannister was the first, breaking the supposedly impenetrable 4-minute-mile barrier 60 years ago. Three years before that, though the famed Englishman actually won the mile at a different venue: the 1951 Penn Relays.

That's the select company Penn's Thomas Awad keeps, after winning last year's Ben Franklin Mile, breaking 4 minutes for the first time in his career in the process, 3:58.43. But when the 121st Relays get underway later this week at venerable Franklin Field, the bespectacled Awad won't be out there trying to defend his title.

Instead he'll be vying for what he considers something more important: to be part of a Championship of America Relays title team.

"It's all about the relay events and running with your team," said the Quakers' junior team captain. "As much fun as it was last year I really want to put forth a good relay, whatever that may be. I think we're gonna put together some good relays. We have a lot of options."

Awad will seek team glory, not personal bests this week. / PENN ATHLETICS

Quoted

"People who haven't been here don't realize all the levels of competition. I remember Usain Bolt was here my sophomore or junior year. ... You know Bolt's here but also some high school runner who's going to be a contender for world titles in 5-6 years is also racing here." Awad

That's what head coach Steve Dolan's thinking too, hoping when the crowd gets behind the host school it could create one of those magic moments the Relays are most remembered for.

"Last year, we didn't feel we had a championship-caliber relay team," explained Dolan. "That's why we let him run in the open mile. This year we want to mix it up. After college there will be lots of opportunities to run individually, but there's nothing like the championship relays at the Penn Relays. We want to put Penn on the map as a team. He's a big part of our focus."

Awad, a health science major, says the anticipation of Relays week is already starting to build. By the weekend it will reach a crescendo, culminating Saturday when literally thousands of runners — from elementary school to potential Olympians — take the track.

Whatever happens for Awad, though, it will have to go some to top the exhilaration he felt coming toward the tape last year.

"The race kind of went as I expected," he recalled. "I knew we were going to have a pacer, so it was all about settling in and just racing. When we got to the last 400 I kind of felt it was my time to move; to make a push for the win. I didn't really want to be on the outside going into the turn. So I just went for it."

With the fans screaming, Awad outleaned Mike Rutt at the tape to secure the victory.

"It was so exciting," Awad said. "I was happy, but not necessarily so surprised I ran that fast. I knew going in breaking 4 minutes was possible."

Now while his focus will change, his feelings about the Relays are stronger than ever.

"Just coming here as a high schooler was so cool, because no high school meet is this big," recalled Awad, whose long-term goal is making it to the 2016 Olympic trials.

Despite that — or maybe because of it — Thomas Awad won't be defending his mile title Saturday, having learned one of the central themes of the Penn Relays: There's no 'I' in T-E-A-M.

Chances are that famous fellow sub-four-minute miler, Roger Bannister, would understand.

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Can Brown put end to power outage?

MLB. Domonic Brown is due to return to the Phillies lineup soon.

Barring a physical setback, Domonic Brown will be back in the Phillies lineup at some point during the Phillies homestand. After missing most of April with tendonitis, Brown will return to right field for the Phillies.

When Brown was asked during spring training if he could turn it around he spoke with unbridled enthusiasm. He based his new attitude on a clean bill of health. But that went out the door with his latest injury.

Brown is the Phillies biggest enigma of the Citizens Bank Park era. How can a guy his size — 6-foot-5 and 220 pounds — be so fragile? How can a player, who appears to have all five tools not put it together? How can a guy, who seemed to have nailed it with an awesome display of power over a six-week stretch that led to an All-Star appearance in 2013, slide so far back?

"I think the one thing you can point to is injuries," Brown said. "It seems like every year there is something that physically holds me back, like the [broken] hamate bone, the concussion. If I have some months in which I'm truly healthy, I can put up some numbers."

Combine Brown's potential and the Phillies lack of outfield options and pencil in Dom-Dawg in right for the 2015 season unless he has a crazy free fall.

By the numbers

28

The Phillies rank an anemic 28th in both team home runs and RBIs out of 30 major league teams this season (through 13 games).

When Brown does return he says he'll be thrilled to be back in right. "I never felt as comfortable in left as I do right," Brown said.

There's no doubt Brown's cannon of an arm plays best in right. Brown believes he can perform better than adequate in right. But the big question is whether he can provide power, which the Phillies sorely need. Ryan Howard has yet to go yard in 2015 and Odubel Herrera, Ben Revere and Freddy Galvis have little pop. The Phillies need power.

"I can give you that," Brown said. "I have the ability to do it. I know everyone is going to depend on me for that."

Who will the Phillies cut when Brown comes back?

"Even though the Phillies guaranteed Grady Sizemore $2 million for the season, the odds are that the one-time Cleveland Indians superstar will be designated for assignment. Sizemore has struggled and has no power. Even during spring training, all he could muster was occasional singles.

It seems like ages ago when Brown made his first major league trip to the plate to a standing ovation in July of 2010. Brown responded with a double that nearly cleared the fence in right center. He was the next big thing playing in a lineup of some of the most feared hitters in baseball.

When Brown steps up to the dish this week, he won't be greeted with such enthusiasm. He'll be trying to salvage his MLB career, while hitting in a lineup, which is struggling to generate any kind of offense. How times have changed.

Domonic Brown will likely return to a struggling offensive unit this week. / GETTY IMAGES

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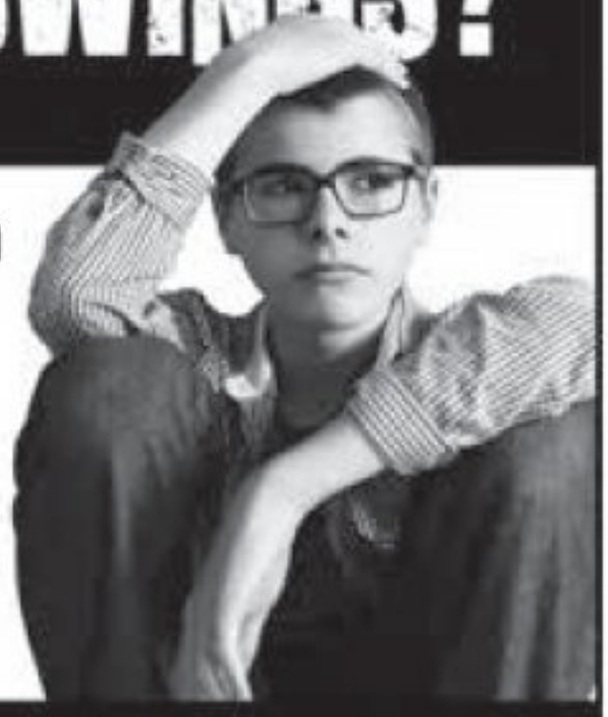

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